

## Message Text

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14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RO, EEWT, EAIR

SUBJ: VIP HELICOPTERS

REF : STATE 140351

1. IN MEETING WITH TEHNOIMPORTEEXPORT OFFICIALS ATANASIU  
(DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR) AND COSTESCU (COUNSELOR), EMBOFF REQUESTED  
DETAILS ON ROMANIAN NEEDS FOR VIP HELICOPTERS.

2. GOR SEEKS TO PURCHASE TWO LIGHT TWIN-ENGINE VIP HELICOPTERS  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL AND OTHER VIP USE. HELICOPTERS SHOULD SEAT FOUR  
TO SIX PASSENGERS, IN ADDITION TO PILOT. MEANING OF QUOTE VIP  
UNQUOTE, AS USED BY ROMANIANS REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO PRESENCE  
OF BACK-UP SAFETY SYSTEMS TO ENSURE AGAINST MECHANICAL FAILURE.  
A MODEL BEING SOUGHT WITH SECOND ENGINE TO DRIVE ROTOR IN CASE  
OF FAILURE IN FIRST ENGINE.

3. HELICOPTER GOR DESIRES SHOULD HAVE HIGH VISIBILITY FACTOR  
(I.E., WRAP-AROUND PLEXIGLASS WINDOWS) AND FULL SET OF NEWEST,  
FULLY TESTED OPTIONAL VIP EQUIPMENT. THEY REQUEST SALES  
INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES ON THEIR STANDARD TWIN-  
ENGINE LIGHT HELICOPTERS, LIST OF VIP OPTIONS, AND ENGINE  
CHARACTERISTICS.

4. TEHNO OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN PRELIMINARY CONTACT  
WITH BELL BUT WISH US TO DIFFUSE THEIR REQUEST TO OTHERS AS  
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WELL AS TO BELL. EMBOFF RAISED POSSIBILITY OF S-60 AND S-60-A AND

WAS TOLD THEY WERE TOO BIG. TEHNO OFFICIALS MENTIONED BELL 222 AND S-76 (ALTHOUGH THEY SEEMED UNSURE OF ITS CHARACTERISTICS). OTHER HELICOPTER MODELS SIMILAR TO ONE THEY SEEKING ARE ALUETTE-3, DOLPHIN SA-365 (AEROSPECIAL), AND BO-105 (MESSERSMITT). TO EMBOFF'S INQUIRY OF POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING ESIED TYPE FROM USSR, RESPONSE WAS ROMANIA WAS EXPLORING SOVIET PRODUCTS AS WELL.

5. EMBOFF HAS LEARNED FROM FRENCH EMBASSY THAT AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING FONMIN SAUVAGNAVIGUES' VISIT TO BUCHAREST JUNE 9-11 WAS POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH HELICOPTER SALES. WE ASSUME THIS REFERS TO VIP HELICOPTERS AND NOT JUST FOLLOW-UP ON TWO YEAR OLD FRENCH/ROMANIAN CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS. ON JUNE 10, FEODOR POPOV, FIRST SECRETARY SOVIET EMBASSY, ASKED MILATT ABOUT ROMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SIKORSKY FOR PURCHASE OF HELICOPTERS. MILATT HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT POPOV'S QUESTION BECAUSE IT INDICATED THAT SOMEHOW POPOV HAD GOTTEN WIND THAT ROMANIANS ARE AGAIN INTERESTED IN PURCHASING SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS. IF SOVIETS ARE BIDDING ON THIS DEAL, THEY OBVIOUSLY WELL-INFORMED ABOUT COMPETITION.

6. TO TEHNO OFFICIALS EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT VIP HELICOPTERS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE CUSTOM-BUILT TO SOME DEGREE AND THAT FOR PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU THEY MIGHT WISH CERTAIN OPTIONS, NOT APPEARING ON LIST OF VIP OPTIONS, WHOSE AIM IT WOULD BE TO PREVENT SABOTAGE OR TERRORISM. BECAUSE ROMANIAN OFFICIALS RESPONDED THAT SUCH PROBLEMS ARE OF NO CONCERN, AND BECAUSE THEY EXPRESSED NO URGENCY, WE BELIEVE THAT DEAL IN EXPLORATORY PRELIMINARY STAGE ONLY. WE FULLY EXPECT THAT ONCE TEHNO HAS DONE GOR'S HOMEWORK, MATTER WILL BE PASSED TO OTHER CAHNNELS. AT THAT TIME ONLY, IF AMERICAN FIRM(S) STILL IN RUNNING, WILL WE BEGIN TO GET CLEAR IDEA OF OPTIONAL GEAR NEEDED.

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